

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5570
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
USDOCO SOUTH
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINR, PEPR, GR, TU, US
SUBJ: PUBLICATION IN GREEK PRESS OF SECRET DIA DOCUMENT

REF: USDAO ATHENS 230930Z APRIL 78 (NOTAL)

1. ON SUNDAY (APRIL 23), THE OPPOSITION TO VIMA NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED ON ITS FRONT PAGE A FACSIMILE OF AN EXTRACT FROM
THE DIA WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY DIAWIS 7-78 DATED
17 FEBRUARY 1978 ENTITLED "GREEK LEADERS EXAMINE PROSPECTS
FOR REINTEGRATION INTO NATO" (REFTEL). THE ITEM REPORTED
THAT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES CHIEFS MET FEBRUARY 9
IN A LENGTHY SESSION TO CONSIDER DE FACTO GREEK REENTRY
INTO NATO'S MILITARY WING WHILE AVOIDING DETRIMENTAL
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN
POLICY. (A COPY OF THE TO VIMA PRESENTATION IS BEING
POUCHED TO EUR/SE.) SO FAR, THE REST OF THE MEDIA HAS
LARGELY DOWNPLAYED THE STORY, AND THE EMBASSY HAS NOT
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RECEIVED ANY QUERIES FROM THE PRESS. MFA SEC GEN THEO-
DOROPOULOS CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR TO REGISTER THE GOG'S
CONCERN (SEPTTEL). DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF WAS QUOTED IN
THE PRESS AS SIMPLY COMMENTING THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY.
HOWEVER, AT A RECEPTION TODAY THE CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC
ARMY STRESSED TO ARMA THAT WHILE GREECE'S NEGOTIATIONS
WITH NATO HAD BEEN GOING WELL, HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT

UNTOWARD DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE TO VIMA STORY WOULD BE DAMAGING.

2. COMMENT: OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN, ESPECIALLY PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT IN CHARGING THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IS PREPARING THE GROUND FOR GREECE'S FULL RETURN TO NATO WITHOUT REGARD TO THE JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION, AND THAT IN DOING SO THE GOG IS DECEIVING THE GREEK PEOPLE WHO, THE OPPOSITION FIGURES SAY, ARE LARGELY OPPOSED TO MILITARY REINTEGRATION INTO NATO. THE GOG'S PUBLIC STANCE HAS BEEN THAT A SPECIAL NATO RELATIONSHIP IS REQUIRED PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION WHICH LED TO GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE IN 1974.

3. THE MISSION IS IN NO POSITION TO DETERMINE HOW TO VIMA OBTAINED THE DIA DOCUMENT, BUT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE LEAK OCCURRED HERE. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THERE ALREADY HAVE BEEN TWO SIMILAR INSTANCES THIS YEAR WHERE AUTHENTIC USG CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS HAVE APPEARED PARTIALLY OR ENTIRELY IN THE GREEK PRESS. THE REVELATION OF USG CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CONCERNING GREECE IS BEGINNING TO OCCUR WITH EMBARRASSING REGULARITY. IN ADDITION TO CREATING DIFFICULTIES OF AN OPERATIONAL NATURE, THE PROBLEM IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE MISSION IN ITS HANDLING OF U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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GREECE.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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